

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader; ~~and~~
- (c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;
- (d) disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a personal computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle; and
- (e) uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle;
- (d f) wherein the steps of ~~converting~~ connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 30 29 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the remote computer.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 32 31 wherein the steps of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from the remote computer to the personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

34. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the step of generating a visual output signal in the code reader comprises selectively illuminating one of a plurality of visual indicia, each visual indicia being representative of a different status of the vehicle.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

37. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading diagnostic trouble codes and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

38. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from a ~~[plurality of]~~ the downloaded diagnostic trouble code signals.

39. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 38 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

40. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in Claim 31 further comprising the step of downloading from the remote computer part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

41. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 40 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 40 further comprising indexing the problem description data to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

44. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 43 further comprising indexing the part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

45. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 44 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between a part/service provider and the personal computer.

46. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 44 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates communications links between a plurality of part/service providers and the personal computer.

47. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 45 wherein the communications link is a direct communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

48. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 45 wherein the communications link is an indirect communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer, via the remote computer.

49. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 45 further comprising charging a fee to the part/service provider based on implementation of the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

50. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 45 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider based on sales transactions resulting from the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

51. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 45 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider to be listed in the part/service provider information.

52. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 44 40 wherein the part/service provider information includes information representative of the cost of parts and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the on-board computer to the code reader;
- (c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;

(d) uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to index the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle;

(e) indexing part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals, the part/service provider information being representative of the cost of product and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals; and

(f) downloading the problem description data and part/service provider information indexed to the diagnostic trouble codes;

(g) wherein the steps of connecting the code reader, downloading diagnostic trouble code signals and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface.

54. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 53 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between the computer and a part/service provider.

55. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 53 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between the computer and a plurality part/service providers.

56. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 54 wherein the communications link is a direct link between the computer and the part/service provider.

57. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 54 wherein the communications link is an indirect link between the computer and the part/service provider, via a host computer.

58. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 54 further comprising the step of charging the part/service provider for facilitating the communications link between the part/service provider and the computer.

59. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 54 further comprising the step of charging the part/service provider a fee based upon products/services sold as a result of the communications link between the part/service provider and the computer.

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Added) The method as recited in Claim 53 wherein the steps of connecting the code reader, downloading diagnostic trouble code signals and generating a visual output signal proceed in response to pressing a connect button disposed upon the scan tool.

62. (New) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader; and
- (c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;
- (d) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface; and

(e) wherein the step of generating a visual output signal in the code reader comprises selectively illuminating one of a plurality of visual indicia, each visual indicia being representative of a different status of the vehicle.

63. (New) The method as recited in Claim 62 further comprising the steps of disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

64. (New) The method as recited in Claim 63 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

65. (New) The method as recited in Claim 63 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the personal computer to the remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

66. (New) The method as recited in Claim 65 wherein the step of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from the remote computer to the personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

67. (New) The method as recited in Claim 62 wherein the step of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

68. (New) The method as recited in Claim 62 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

69. (New) The method as recited in Claim 62 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from the downloaded diagnostic trouble code signals.

70. (New) The method as recited in Claim 69 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

71. (New) The method as recited in Claim 66 further comprising the step of downloading from the remote computer part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

72. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

73. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 further comprising indexing the problem description data to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

74. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 further comprising indexing the part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

75. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between a part/service provider and the personal computer.

76. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates communications links between a plurality of part/service providers and the personal computer.

77. (New) The method as recited in Claim 75 wherein the communications link is a direct communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

78. (New) The method as recited in Claim 75 wherein the communications link is an indirect communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer, via the remote computer.

79. (New) The method as recited in Claim 75 further comprising charging a fee to the part/service provider based on implementation of the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

80. (New) The method as recited in Claim 75 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider based on sales transactions resulting from the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

81. (New) The method as recited in Claim 75 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider to be listed in the part/service provider information.

82. (New) The method as recited in Claim 71 wherein the part/service provider information includes information representative of the cost of parts and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals.

83. (New) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader; and

(c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;

(d) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface; and

(e) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

84. (New) The method as recited in Claim 83 further comprising the steps of disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

85. (New) The method as recited in Claim 84 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

86. (New) The method as recited in Claim 84 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

87. (New) The method as recited in Claim 86 wherein the step of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from the remote computer to the personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

88. (New) The method as recited in Claim 83 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

89. (New) The method as recited in Claim 83 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from the downloaded diagnostic trouble code signals.

90. (New) The method as recited in Claim 89 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

91. (New) The method as recited in Claim 87 further comprising the step of downloading from the remote computer part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

92. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

93. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 further comprising indexing the problem description data to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

94. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 further comprising indexing the part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

95. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between a part/service provider and the personal computer.

96. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates communications links between a plurality of part/service providers and the personal computer.

97. (New) The method as recited in Claim 95 wherein the communications link is a direct communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

98. (New) The method as recited in Claim 95 wherein the communications link is an indirect communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer, via the remote computer.

99. (New) The method as recited in Claim 95 further comprising charging a fee to the part/service provider based on implementation of the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

100. (New) The method as recited in Claim 95 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider based on sales transactions resulting from the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

101. (New) The method as recited in Claim 95 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider to be listed in the part/service provider information.

102. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91 wherein the part/service provider information includes information representative of the cost of parts and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals.

103. (New) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader; and

(c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;

(d) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface; and

(e) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

104. (New) The method as recited in Claim 103 further comprising the steps of disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

105. (New) The method as recited in Claim 104 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

106. (New) The method as recited in Claim 104 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

107. (New) The method as recited in Claim 106 wherein the step of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from the remote computer to the personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

108. (New) The method as recited in Claim 103 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

109. (New) The method as recited in Claim 103 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from the downloaded diagnostic trouble code signals.

110. (New) The method as recited in Claim 109 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

111. (New) The method as recited in Claim 107 further comprising the step of downloading from the remote computer part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

112. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

113. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 further comprising indexing the problem description data to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

114. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 further comprising indexing the part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

115. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between a part/service provider and the personal computer.

116. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates communications links between a plurality of part/service providers and the personal computer.

117. (New) The method as recited in Claim 115 wherein the communications link is a direct communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

118. (New) The method as recited in Claim 115 wherein the communications link is an indirect communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer, via the remote computer.

119. (New) The method as recited in Claim 115 further comprising charging a fee to the part/service provider based on implementation of the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

120. (New) The method as recited in Claim 115 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider based on sales transactions resulting from the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

121. (New) The method as recited in Claim 115 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider to be listed in the part/service provider information.

122. (New) The method as recited in Claim 111 wherein the part/service provider information includes information representative of the cost of parts and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals.

123. (New) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader; and

(c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;

(d) wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface; and

(e) wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from the downloaded diagnostic trouble code signals.

124. (New) The method as recited in Claim 123 further comprising the steps of disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

125. (New) The method as recited in Claim 124 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

126. (New) The method as recited in Claim 124 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

127. (New) The method as recited in Claim 126 wherein the step of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from the remote computer to the personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

128. (New) The method as recited in Claim 123 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

129. (New) The method as recited in Claim 123 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceed independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

130. (New) The method as recited in Claim 123 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

131. (New) The method as recited in Claim 127 further comprising the step of downloading from the remote computer part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

132. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

133. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 further comprising indexing the problem description data to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

134. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 further comprising indexing the part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals.

135. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between a part/service provider and the personal computer.

136. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates communications links between a plurality of part/service providers and the personal computer.

137. (New) The method as recited in Claim 135 wherein the communications link is a direct communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

138. (New) The method as recited in Claim 135 wherein the communications link is an indirect communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer, via the remote computer.

139. (New) The method as recited in Claim 135 further comprising charging a fee to the part/service provider based on implementation of the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

140. (New) The method as recited in Claim 135 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider based on sales transactions resulting from the communications link between the part/service provider and the personal computer.

141. (New) The method as recited in Claim 135 further comprising the step of charging a fee to the part/service provider to be listed in the part/service provider information.

142. (New) The method as recited in Claim 131 wherein the part/service provider information includes information representative of the cost of parts and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals.

143. (New) A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating diagnostic trouble code signals, the diagnostic trouble code signals being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

- (a) connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;
- (b) downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the on-board computer to the code reader;

(c) generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader;

(d) uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to index the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle;

(e) indexing part/service provider information to the diagnostic trouble code signals, the part/service provider information being representative of the cost of product and labor to effect repairs indicated by the diagnostic trouble code signals; and

(f) downloading the problem description data and part/service provider information indexed to the diagnostic trouble codes;

(g) wherein the steps of connecting the code reader, downloading diagnostic trouble code signals and generating a visual output signal proceed in response to pressing a connect button disposed upon the scan tool.

144. (New) The method as recited in Claim 143 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between the computer and a part/service provider.

145. (New) The method as recited in Claim 143 wherein the part/service provider information facilitates a communications link between the computer and a plurality part/service providers.

146. (New) The method as recited in Claim 144 wherein the communications link is a direct link between the computer and the part/service provider.

147. (New) The method as recited in Claim 144 wherein the communications link is an indirect link between the computer and the part/service provider, via a host computer.

148. (New) The method as recited in Claim 144 further comprising the step of charging the part/service provider for facilitating the communications link between the part/service provider and the computer.

149. (New) The method as recited in Claim 144 further comprising the step of charging the part/service provider a fee based upon products/services sold as a result of the communications link between the part/service provider and the computer.

150. (New) The method as recited in Claim 143 wherein the steps of connecting the code reader, downloading diagnostic trouble code signals and generating a visual output signal proceed independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface.